



The Halifax Amateur Radio Club

REFLECTOR

PO BOX 663
HALIFAX NS
B3J 2T3

May 2008 Volume 69 Number 5
club web site is www.halifax-arc.org



2008 is the HARC's 75th Anniversary Year



HARC Club Station phone number - 490-6421

Executive

| | | |
|---|----------|--------------------------|
| President - Bill Elliott, VE1MR | 865-8567 | ve1mr@rac.ca |
| First V.P. - Murray MacDonald, VE1MMD | 876-0661 | twomacds@ns.sympatico.ca |
| 2nd V.P. - Tom Gaum, VE1BMJ | 445-8103 | tgaum2@ns.sympatico.ca |
| Secretary - Helen MacRae, VE1HMR | 422-7119 | ve1hmr@rac.ca |
| Treasurer - Fraser MacDougall VE1WO | 865-4198 | ve1wo@rac.ca |
| Director-at-Large: - Doug LeBlanc, VE1LDL | 465-4665 | leblanc@accesscable.net |
| Club Station Mgr. - Brian Allan, VE1AZV | 489-4656 | basailor@eastlink.ca |
| Past President - Bob Swinwood, VE1PQ | 860-4454 | bob_swinwood@hotmail.com |

Committees/Offices/Prime Contacts

| | | |
|--|----------|-------------------------------|
| Government liaison - Murray MacDonald, VE1MMD | 876-0661 | twomacds@ns.sympatico.ca |
| 75th Anniversary Chair - Bill Elliott, VE1MR | 865-8567 | ve1mr@rac.ca |
| QSL Bureau Mgr - Tom Caithness, VE1GTC | 477-7081 | tom.caithness@ns.sympatico.ca |
| EMO Coordinator - Dave George, VE1AJP | 466-8723 | dgeorge@dal.ca |
| EMO Trailer coordinator - David Musgrave, VE1EDA | 435-4333 | ve1eda@rac.ca |
| Reflector editor - Lynn Bowser, VE1ENT | 865-8567 | ve1ent@rac.ca |
| Reflector Dist. - Howard Dickson, VE1DHD | 823-2024 | dh dickson@hfx.eastlink.ca |
| Membership - Howard Dickson, VE1DHD | 823-2024 | dh dickson@hfx.eastlink.ca |
| Web page - Rob Ewert, VE1KS, | 826-1705 | ewertr@hfx.eastlink.ca |
| Basic ham course - Barry Diggins, VE1TRI | 861-3719 | ve1tri@rac.ca |
| 2008 Flea market Chair - Fraser MacDougall VE1WO | 865-4198 | ve1wo@rac.ca |
| Field Day coordinator - John Bartlett, VE1OZ | 832-2119 | johnbartlett@eastlink.ca |
| Safety Officer - Terry Bigelow, VE1TRB | | ve1trb@eastlink.ca |
| NSARA Director - Scott Wood, VE1QD | 823-2761 | ve1qd@rac.ca |
| Honorary Legal Counsel - Paul Radford, VE1ARH | | |

Non Club Contacts

RAC Atlantic Dir. - Len, VE9MY (506) 847-5656 lmorgan@nbnet.nb.ca
Assistant Director of RAC for HRM Scott Wood, VE1QD, 823-2761 ve1qd@rac.ca

The **regular Monthly Meeting** of the Halifax Amateur Radio Club will take place Wednesday, May 21, 2008 at 1930 hours (7:30 PM) in the new club rooms in the **Saint Andrews Recreation Center**. Directions to the St. Andrews Center are on page 10.

The evening's program: Larry Hicks, VO1HL, will present on software defined radio (SDR), which will be important for the future as youth will be interested in linking radio and computer.

Guests are welcome

Don't judge people by their relatives.

See details about the HARC
75th Anniversary Competitions
on pages 4 & 10

Puzzler - Do you know?

The J-pole is a popular VHF antenna. By what other name is it commonly known?

The Answer is on page 3



Take-15 Net Controllers

NOTE: There have been some changes.

This will be the rotation.

If you cannot take the net on your particular evening get in touch with one of the others and trade places with them. If I have left any one off the list, **or you want to join**, please let Bill Elliott, VE1MR, know.

| | | | |
|------|----|---------|--------|
| May | 11 | Emil | VE1ESP |
| May | 18 | Chris | VA1CDB |
| May | 25 | Charles | VE1MCR |
| June | 1 | Herb | VE1HX |
| June | 8 | Doug | VE1LDL |
| June | 15 | Pierre | VE1PTR |
| June | 22 | Win | VE1WIN |



**Deadline for submissions
to the June Reflector is
Saturday, June 7, 2008**

*From Murphy's Lesser
Known Law & Truths:*

*If you lined up all the cars in
the world end to end,
someone would be stupid
enough to try to pass them,
five or six at a time, on a hill,
in the fog.*

GENERAL INFORMATION



Sunday evenings:
EMO Net: at 7:30 PM on 147.270 +
TAKE-15 NET at 8:30 PM on
147.270 + (VE1PSR/VHF)

CLUB REPEATERS:
VE1PSR/VHF - 147.270 MHz +
VE1PSR/UHF - 444.350 MHz +
VE1PSR/6M - 53.550 MHz -
access tone 151.4 Hz
VE1HNS - 146.940 MHz -

PACKET:
VE1NSD 145.050 MHz LAN NODE

Events for Your Calendar

Saturday May 31 – Loyalist City Amateur Radio Club Hamfest & Fleamarket. Info at www.lcarc.ca
Location: Quispamsis Middle School, 189 Pettingill Rd., Quispamsis NB.

June 7, 1330 UTC to June 8, 1900 UTC – Museum Ships on the Air

June 28 & 29 (the last full weekend in June) – the ARRL Field Day

July & August – Pizza Nights

End of July – MS Bike Tour

End of July – IOTA

August – The 7th International Lighthouse Day is intended to raise the profile of lighthouses, lightvessels and other navigational aids, promoting our maritime heritage.

Reserve August 21,22,23 &24 for taking part in the HARC 75th Anniversary Hamfest

Friday, August 22, 2008 – The Fifth Annual MARITIME DX FORUM

If Wal-Mart is lowering prices every day, how come nothing is free yet?

The 2008 Callbook will feature full colour on the covers and 4 tabbed advertising leaves (8 pages) that will separate major sections in the 2008 book. The 2008 callbook advertising rates for 2008 will be:

| | Regular | Tabs | Clubs |
|------------|---------|-------|-------|
| Full page | \$300 | \$375 | \$150 |
| Half page | \$175 | \$225 | \$85 |
| 1/4 page | \$125 | \$150 | \$65 |
| Buss. Card | \$90 | \$110 | \$45 |

Please be sure to let Scott know who you are planning to approach with respect to advertising BEFORE you talk with them, just to make sure that he or someone else has not already made the ask.

Thanks & 73 Howard, VE1DHD

HRM EMO Ham Advisory website
is <http://www.ve1hre.ca>

The Brit Fader Roast CD

On the 10th of May 1985, one of the most dedicated HARC members, LeBreton J. W. (Brit) Fader, VE1FQ, was honoured and roasted by his fellow amateurs during a banquet in celebration of his fifty years of contribution to and involvement with amateur radio. It was during this evening that the L.J. Fader Scholarship Trust Fund was established. I attended that banquet and made a cassette recording of the evening's proceedings.

As HARC will be celebrating its 75th anniversary this year and as a former full member and now an associate member of HARC, I had an idea of how I could contribute something to the club on this occasion and to the scholarship in Brit's memory.

I dug out the old cassettes and replayed them and thoroughly enjoyed reliving this evening of entertainment. I decided to record them on my computer and burn them to a CD. Now, how to share this evening with others? Well, I could make copies of the CD and sell them and contribute all of the money to the Brit Fader Scholarship Trust and do this as a HARC 75th Anniversary project.

So, this is my plan: To make 50 copies of the CD with label, descriptive insert, jewel case, four-part banquet audio and possibly some photos from that evening. I am funding the entire project from my own pocket, doing all of the CD burning, labels and insert. The CD will be available for sale at the 75th Anniversary Banquet on Friday, August 22nd. and during the Downeast Fleamarket the following day. The price for each CD is \$5.00. ALL of your money will go in to the L. J. Fader Scholarship Trust Fund. Any unsold CDs will be left with President Bill Elliot who will appoint a club member to look after future sales. You won't be disappointed as the audio of this evening is very entertaining.

I hope you will support this worth-while project and help to raise a potential \$250.00 for the L. J. Fader Scholarship Trust Fund.

Thanks in advance.

Jim Cleveland, VE1CHI

Museum Ships Weekend event

The annual Museum Ships Weekend will take place 1330 UTC on June 07 through 1900 UTC on June 08. More than 30 museum ships are expected to take part. Suggested operating frequencies are 3860, 7260, 14,260, 18,160, 21,360, 24,960 and 28,360 kHz on SSB; 3539, 7039, 10,109, 14,039, 18,099, 21,039, 24,899 and 28,039 kHz on CW. Several ships will operate original radio equipment on AM and CW. Certificates will be available for a large SASE for stations working at least 15 ships.

Event's website: <http://users.telurian.com/FREDDIE/NJ2BB/SHIP-EVENT.HTML>

Zapping Cancer Cells at 13.56 MHz
From the ARRL Letter, Vol. 27, No. 14

John Kanzius, K3TUP, of Erie, Penn., has been working on an RF-based treatment for cancer that is currently undergoing testing. According to ARRL Media & P.R. Mgr. Allen Pitts, W1AGP, Kanzius was interviewed for the CBS news show "60 Minutes" in April. "While there never is a way to predict what ends up on the cutting room floor, John gave as many plugs to his ham radio background as he could in being the foundations of hands-on learning that led to his research and invention," Pitts said. Read more about Kanzius and his ground-breaking idea to kill cancer cells with radio waves in the Feb. 2008 issue of QST

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

The year is going quickly and with summer coming it will pass even quicker. Please consider what you will be doing at the 75th celebration. I will be taking in as much of the weekend as possible and hope to be helping out with several of the activities as well. If most club members help out with one or two events then all will go very smoothly. This is an opportunity to showcase what the club is doing and how we treat others in this great hobby of ours. The events lined up for the hamfest are world class and you are sure to find something to match your taste.

73 - Bill, VE1MR

SPECIAL PREFIXES

To commemorate the HARC 75th Anniversary we have applied for and been granted special prefixes. These will be available for all club members to use for the period of July 25th until August 24th.

If your prefix is VE1 you can use VX1 and if our prefix is VA1 you can use VG1. An example would be:

VE1FA becomes VX1FA

VA1YL becomes VG1YL

Club members using the special prefix can enter a couple of competitions. Details and rules of these competitions and awards are on the 75th web site:

www.harc75.org

A generic club card for the special prefixes will be available to members who use the prefixes

Silent Key

From the website
<http://TheChronicleHerald.ca>

John Addison (VE1DD) - It is with great sadness that we announce the passing of John Brown, at home in Lower Sackville, on April 16, 2008, due to complications of cancer. He was a loving husband, father, grandfather, and friend. Born in Hamilton, Ont., in 1937, he was a son of the late John and Merle (Hamill) Brown. He served in the Royal Canadian Navy for 33 years as a musician with the Shearwater and Stadacona Bands. He was an amateur radio operator for 48 years and held the call sign VE1AHB, and VE1DD in later years. He was involved in the Boy Scout movement for many years. He enjoyed delivering Meals on Wheels, playing bridge, and spending time with family and friends at his summer cottage at Lake Torment, and last year at his trailer in Aylesford. He is survived by his loving wife and best friend of 44 years, Patricia Pat (Mills) Brown; sons, John, Richmond, Va.; Kevin and Kirk, Lower Sackville; daughter, Linda Steed (Geoff), Dartmouth, and granddaughters, Samantha, Julia & Olive.

**Answer to Puzzler on page 1**

The J-pole antenna is also known as the Zepp or Slim Jim.

A man's got to do what a man's got to do. A woman must do what he can't.

-- Rhonda Hansome

Hello

DXers, Contesters and HF Enthusiasts:

I am very pleased to announce that we have finalized the 2008 MDF program. It will take place in Halifax, Nova Scotia on Friday, 22 August 2008. However, this year we will be a part of the larger Down East Ham Festival from 21 - 24 August. The Hamfest will celebrate the Halifax Amateur Radio Club's 75th Anniversary of continuous operation and community service. We strongly urge you not only to attend the MDF's outstanding program but to join in all the other Hamfest activities as well. The details of the Hamfest program and the registration materials can be found at our website:

www.harc75.org.

The MDF program this year features some of the very most outstanding people in Ham Radio presenting on a fascinating set of topics. Attached is the official MDF Announcement and Program as well as an outline of the Down East Hamfest schedule. This is a not to miss program!

This year you will need to register through the Hamfest registration system. Do so early and take advantage of the early bird savings. HOWEVER, I also want all those who register, or intend to register for the MDF, to contact me directly so that I can keep track of expected participation.

I also ask each of you to circulate program material to others you believe will be interested in our program. This is a wonderful time of year in Nova Scotia so come for awhile and make it a family holiday.

I look forward to hearing from you very soon and to seeing you in August.

73, Scott VE1QD

E-mail: VE1QD@RAC.CA

P.S. Those of you coming from outside the Halifax area and wishing relatively inexpensive accommodations please contact Mt. St. Vincent University's Conference Scheduler, Patricia Drake at: Tele (902) 457-6355 or E-mail: patricia.drake@msvu.ca Since there are a limited number of rooms, you should do this sooner rather than later.

Go to URL <http://www.qsl.net/n9bor/morse.htm>

That link will take one to absolutely everything -- EVERYTHING! a person would ever want to know about CW, including formats for typical messages, etc. Gary, VE1RGB

HARC 75th Anniversary Competitions

Sponsored by the Halifax Amateur Radio Club

Introduction: The organizing committee for the HARC 75th Anniversary has obtained special prefixes, available **only** to licensed HARC amateur radio operators, for the period 0001Z, 25 July 2008 to 2359Z, 24 August 2008. The prefix VX1 will be available to VE1s, and VG1 will be available to VA1s. In order to capitalize on this opportunity, the committee has designed two competitions. The first one is not unlike a typical international contest and the second is not unlike a DXCC award, and each competition is described separately as follows: (See Page 10 for **Competition #2** information)

Competition #1 - HF Special Prefix Contest

1) Objective: For HARC club member Radio Amateurs to make contact with as many other Radio Amateurs as possible, working everyone anywhere in the world, **using the special prefixes VX1 for VE1 and VG1 for VA1**, as a means of publicizing and generating interest in the HARC 75th Anniversary event (which lasts from Thurs., 21 August 2008 to Sunday, 24 August 2008).

2) Operating Period: The operating period is based on the validity dates of the special prefixes as authorized by RAC and Transport Canada, namely from 0001Z, 25 July 2008 to 2359Z, 24 August 2008. There are no restrictions on operating hours.

3) Categories – Single Operator – there is only one category – single operator where one person performs all operating and logging functions. Use of spotting nets (operator arrangements involving assistance through DX-alerting nets, Packet Cluster, etc) is permitted.

4) Power. Three power output categories are available. You may choose only ONE (1) of these categories (no QRP one day, mixed with High Power, etc, the next).

- (i) **QRP** - 5W output or less
- (ii) **Low Power** - 100W output or less
- (iii) **High Power** - more than 100W output

5) Modes:

- (i) Mixed mode (any combination of phone, digital [RTTY or PSK31] or CW)
- (ii) Phone only
- (iii) Digital only
- (iv) CW only

6) Operating Exchange: HARC stations must send and copy real RST signal reports.

7) Scoring: QSO Points: Each complete Phone or Digital contact is worth 1 point, per band. Each complete CW contact is worth 2 points, per band.

8) Multipliers: For HARC stations, each of the following represents a multiplier: Each of the 50 states and District of Columbia (DC); Canada VE1, VE9, VY2, VO1, VO2, VE2, VE3, VE4, VE5, VE6, VE7, VE8, VY0, VY1; DXCC Entities. **A multiplier can be counted once per mode, regardless of the number of bands on which it is worked.** For example, if you work GM (Scotland) on 40M CW, that's a multiplier. If you work GM again on 20M SSB, that's another multiplier. After that, you may work GM as often as you want on any band on any mode, but it is no longer a multiplier – it is a multiplier only the first time it is worked, per mode.

9) Final Score: Multiply QSO Points by total multipliers by the power multiplier (see below):

Power Multiplier: If all QSO's were made using 5W or less, multiply your score by 3; if all QSO's were made using less than 100W, multiply your score by 2; if any or all QSO's were made using more than 100W, multiply your score by 1.

From the ARRL Letter, Vol. 27, No. 14
April 11, 2008

2008 ARRL/TAPR Digital Communications Conference: Call for Papers

Technical papers are solicited for presentation at the 27th annual ARRL/TAPR <<http://www.tapr.org/>> Digital Communications Conference (DCC), Friday-Sunday, September 26-28, in Chicago, Illinois <<http://www.tapr.org/dcc.html>>. Papers will also be published in the Conference Proceedings. Authors do not need to attend the conference to have their papers included in the Proceedings. The submission deadline is July 31.

The ARRL/TAPR Digital Communications Conference is an international forum for technically minded radio amateurs to meet and present new ideas and techniques. Paper/presentation topic areas include -- but are not limited to -- software defined radio (SDR), digital voice, digital signal processing (DSP), HF digital modes, adapting IEEE 802.11 systems for Amateur Radio, Global Positioning System (GPS), Automatic Position Reporting System (APRS), Linux in Amateur Radio, AX.25 updates and Internet operability with Amateur Radio networks.

Submit papers to Maty Weinberg, KB1EIB, ARRL, 225 Main St, Newington, CT 06111 or via e-mail <maty@arrl.org>. Papers will be published exactly as submitted, and authors will retain all rights. ARRL will provide additional information on the 2008 DCC as it becomes available.

IMPORTANT NOTE

In order to make this internal HARC competition fair for those who do not regularly enter contests, QSOs made during formal contests during this period (see <http://www.hornucopia.com/contestcal/>) will NOT count, regardless of which call sign any given operator chooses to use.

10) Suggested frequencies: Since this is not a formal competition per

(Continued on page 5)

HARC 75th Anniversary Competitions (Continued from page 4)

se, any HARC operator can operate anywhere on any band within the limits of their licenses, including WARC bands, on all HF bands from 160M through 6M.

11) Miscellaneous:

- (A) Call signs and exchange information must be received by each station for a complete QSO.
- (B) No cross-mode contacts; CW contacts must be made in the CW portion of the band.
- (C) Stations may be worked once per mode, per band.
- (D) Do not worry about dupes – they will become an issue only in the event of a tie.

12) Reporting:

- (A) Entries must be received no later than 30 days after the end of the HARC anniversary (therefore by 24 Sept. 2008).
- (B) Method of submitting:
 - (i) E-Mail. You may submit your operating log results summary via e-mail (e.g., pdf format) to ve1rgb@rac.ca or to VE1RGB in person.
 - (ii) Format. Entrants are encouraged to use the log-entry form attached (see below) but any hard copy log that meets the equivalent requirements is acceptable.
- (C) Logs must indicate band, power, mode, date, time in UTC, calls, and the sent and received RST exchanges.
- (D) Final results will be posted on the HARC Website.

13) Awards:

- (A) Certificates will be awarded to top scorers in each category
- (B) Special additional awards may be awarded at the discretion of the HARC 75 Planning Committee.

14) Condition of Entry: Each entrant agrees to be bound by the provisions, as well as the intent, of this announcement, the regulations of his or her licensing authority and the decisions of the HARC Planning Committee.

15) QSL Cards – HARC will supply event-specific, call sign-generic QSL cards which HARC members may obtain and use at their discretion, filling in their own call signs as appropriate. In response to questions from other operators during QSOs, HARC operators may point to the special HARC 75 Website for event and for QSL details at <http://www.halifax-arc.org/>.

HARC 75 Anniversary Operating Award Operating Log

Date
Band (M)
Mode (CW or SSB)
Power (QRP, Low or High)*
Time (UTC)
Callsign
RST Received
RST Sent
DXCC Prefix or State or Province**

* Pick one and stick with it.

** Can only be counted once per mode, first time worked.

Summary of Results

A – Total # SSB QSOs, all bands
B – Total # CW QSOs, all bands
C – Total # of US States
D – Total # of Canadian Provinces
E – Total # of other DXCC Entities
Final Score = [(A * 1) + (B * 2)] * (C + D + E) * Power Multiplier***
*** See Paragraphs 4 and 7(C)(1), above

From the ARRL Letter, Vol. 27, No. 11

"THE DOCTOR IS IN" THE ARRL LETTER

The author of the popular QST column "The Doctor Is In," answers a question from his mailbag:

Question -- Jeff Otto, WA1QYW, of Framingham, Massachusetts, asks: I have a new SSB transceiver, and I noticed something peculiar. When I tune to an empty frequency, say on 20 meters, with absolutely no signals and only noise, and I switch the mode between USB and LSB, the received "tone" of the background noise changes. On one position, it sounds like it consists of more high frequency components, and on the other position it sounds like more low frequency components. I would have thought that white noise would sound the same, regardless of which sideband is being received. In normal SSB operation, this effect is not really noticed. I'm wondering if there is some sort of a misalignment in the radio.

The Doctor Answers -- Jeff, I agree with your diagnosis. Switching between USB and LSB switches the "BFO" or injected carrier frequency from one side of the SSB filter bandwidth to the other. There are a few exceptions, notably the early RL Drake tube transceivers that kept the same BFO frequency but switched the filters. Switching the BFO frequency is generally cheaper than having two filters.

There are two possibilities: One, that the shape of the filter passband is not flat. If it's higher on one side than the other, that will translate to stronger high frequency response on one sideband and stronger low on the other.

The other, and I would say more likely, possibility is that the BFO oscillators are not spaced the same distance from the edge of filter bandwidth. In one case you might have (with a 2.1 kHz filter, for example) with 200 Hz offset, an audio response from 200 to 2300 Hz, while the other sideband, if spaced 400 Hz, will have a response from 400 Hz to 2500 Hz. The usual design response is from 300 Hz to 300 + the filter bandwidth.

You can test this by using a good low-level audio generator in the microphone input (set to the same level as the mic audio), and checking the response at the audio monitor jack if your radio has one. You could also check with another receiver but, unless it is very wideband, you would really be measuring the combination of offsets and filters in both radios.

If your transceiver has a PASSBAND TUNING or IF SHIFT control, you can move it to make the receive audio sound the same on either sideband, but that won't help on the transmit side. If it's not very different, and if you get good audio reports on both sidebands, you could just pretend you hadn't noticed!

Halifax Amateur Radio Club Minutes of the General Meeting April 16, 2008

Welcome: President Bill Elliott, VE1MR, called the meeting to order at 1940 hours.

Silent keys: Members were advised that John Brown, VE1DD, died recently. Funeral arrangements have not yet been published.

Approval of the Agenda: Motion: THAT the agenda be accepted as distributed.

Moved by Sheldon Donaldson, VE1ARG. Seconded by Jim Flowers, VE1JIM. Approved.

Guests/visitors: - No guests being present, members introduced themselves.

Minutes: There were no errors or omissions noted for the minutes of March, 2008.

Motion: THAT the minutes of the March regular meeting be approved as printed in the April Reflector. Moved by Doug Leblanc, VE1LDL. Seconded by Rich Pieniaszek, VA1CHP. Approved.

REPORTS

Treasurer:

Fraser MacDougall, VE1WO, reported an income of \$1212.50, expenses of \$901.93, and a balance of \$ 12,166.20 See attached report for details.

Motion: THAT the treasurer's report be accepted as presented.

Moved by Howard Dickson, VE1DHD. Seconded by Don Trotter, VE1DTR. Approved.

Secretary:

Correspondence:

Donation: Helen MacRae, VE1HMR, advised that a donation of \$250.00 has been made for the upcoming HARC75th celebrations in memory of Sidney Hatcher, VE1BJR by his sons Brandon and Ken, and grandson, Don. A letter of thanks will be sent to the family.

HARC75th Registrations: Registrations for the HARC75th Hamfest are

beginning to come in. Cheques for 2 full registrations and one DX Forum were given to the treasurer.

HRM Community Grants Program 2008-2009: A letter acknowledging HARC's submission to the current community grants program is has been received.

President:

Business Cards: Bill Elliott, VE1MR, advised that business cards have been printed for use of members to pass out during events. Major club information, including call signs, is noted and room provided for jotting the member's contact information. Those wishing cards should contact an executive member.

Call sign prefixes for 75th: For a 30 day period from July 25th until August 24th, VE1 members may use VX1; members with VA call signs may use VG for their prefix. More information will be forthcoming. A generic HARC75th QSL card will be created.

Past President: Away, No Report

1st Vice-President:

Canada Winter Games 2011 - Murray MacDonald, VE1MMD and Station Manager, Brian Allen, VE1AZV, will meet with Canada Games officials next week. Games officials are very interested in working with the HARC; an update on this meeting will be given at the May general meeting.

Titanic 2012: Murray reported that there will be three special stations on the air worldwide for the 100th anniversary of the sinking of the Titanic. He recommends that HARC should look forward to contributing to the anniversary awareness.

American amateur visitors: An inquiry from an American ham about cell phone legislation in Nova Scotia has been received. Noting that California and Massachusetts amateurs are exempt from cell phone legislation, Murray reported that once copies of the legislation for those State are obtained they will be forwarded to our provincial legisla-

tures for their reference. To respond to the immediate enquiry, Murray will advise the writer about the letter received from the Minister of Transportation.

He also reported that his daughter, who has an embroidery business, has put the HARC logo on the 6 safety vests that have been purchased. The vests are in the club and will be available for the MS Walk; members are to get them from Brian, VE1AZV, when needed.

2nd Vice-President: Tom Gaum, VE1BMJ, will be away during May. Larry Hicks, V01HL, will be speaking about digital radio and may possibly have a digital receive on hand.

Door prize: tonight's door prize is a multi-purpose screw driver, Multit-Pro Plus.

Program: This evening's program is a club social.

Director at large: No report

Station Manager:

Sloper antenna: Brian Allen, VE1AZV, reported that AI, VE1AWP, Murray, VE1MMD, Gary, VE1RGB, and himself, along with others put together the 180, 40 meter sloper antenna. Until an antenna switch is obtained, users will have to move and change for band use.

Club Entry: Access is in process. All names have been loaded to the database but will require change of passwords.

DX For Win: This program will be loaded on the computers in the radio room. A course will be held on a Saturday yet to be chosen for members to become familiar with its use.

Paclink: A sign up sheet will be available for those interested in learning about Paclink. Brian recommends that hams wishing to assist during emergency events should take this course and become familiar with the programming.

Committee reports:

Membership: Howard Dickson, VE1DHD, reported the club currently has 106 full members, 4 life, and 25 associate members.

(Continued on page 7)

Minutes (Continued from page 6)

Callbook: Howard Dickson, VE1DHD, stated progress continues. Most of non-database material is now in place; proof reading has been done by Lynn Bowser, VE1ENT, and Helen Archibald, VA1YL, and there are some edits to be made. Advertising sales have exceeded past years, with a current total just under \$8000. Printing costs will be more substantial due to volume and presentation change (tab page entries are manually placed).

Club Survey: Of 180 questionnaires sent out, 80 have been returned completed, 3 were undeliverable, and 1 was returned unsigned providing a 47% return. Murray would like to receive more and encouraged members who haven't yet done so to send theirs in.

Community Grant Submission: Murray had reported in March that we were applying for a grant under the HRM Communities Grant Program, within the Emergency section. He reported that HARC has submitted a proposal for an emergency response trailer complete with tower and antenna at a projected cost of \$23,028, requesting it be built to our specs. If granted, the trailer will be built in the USA through a locally-based company (Dartmouth), which includes a quiet generator, an HF antenna, a VHF repeater with backup and winches. This will also tie in with the 2011 Winter Games and with the upcoming Northern Lights project in HRM North End. It will require lots of sweat equity. Within the submission we also noted that a portion of the funds that would have been put towards the proposed trailer have been allocated to the club site move.

Committee Descriptions: VE1MMD posted a description of existing committees as approved by the executive and asked members to look at the tasks assigned to each. If they agree and wish to participate, members were invited to sign up so their interest can be known. Murray noted that the commitments of each committee are not currently found within club bylaws, but serve as guidelines.

Basic Course : Barry Diggins, VE1TRI, reported that one more self-study person has started course study for a total of four. Three yachtsmen are interested in taking the course in the fall. Barry asked members to advise him if they know of potential students and to encourage potential students to think about the upcoming course. Barry presented the club with a guestbook (log) so that visitors may

sign and provide contact information.

EMO: Dave George, VE1AJP Nothing to report.

Search and Rescue:

Dave George, VE1AJP, reported that members were active in a search for a 17 year old youth in Cole Harbour, until it was halted. Tuesday of this week saw the unveiling of the support vehicle and tracking system. Dave said they were very pleased with the new logistics support; the vehicle seats 15 and has emergency lighting. When the search for the lad was resumed, Eastern Shore volunteers found him in deep woods. The resumption of the search saw the new GPS-tracking radios put into use.

Field Day: Chairman John Bartlett, VE1OZ, stated that the, "boiler plate organization" that Howard, VE1DHD, coordinated for Field Day will serve well. He has taken the liberty of putting a few names against committees and during the meeting sought and confirmed volunteers. As per Howard's recommendations, captains have been identified who will now secure volunteers as needed:

Safety Terry, VE1TRB

Food and beverage Murray, VE1MMD, and Tom, VE1GTC

EMO Trailer coordinator Dave, VE1EDA

Station Manager Brian, VE1AZV

EMO Trailer Dave, VE1AJP

CW Dick, VE1AI, Gary, VE1RGB, and Al, VE1AWP

SSB NEEDED

GOTA Scott, VE1QD with Barry, VE1TRI

6 Meters and Sattelite Bill, VE1MR

Publicity Wayne, VE1WPH

Government Liaison Murray, VE1MMD with Wayne, VE1WPH

Bonus Points NEEDED

Logistics (transportation) Fraser, VE1WO

Visitors John Bartlett, VE1OZ

IT Don Trotter, VE1DTR

Photography Howard, VE1DHD (also serving as Backup Chair)

Cleanup Brian, VE1AZV

Score Tabulation and Submission Bill, VE1MR

Required: Volunteers to oversee SSB and Bonus Point collection. The next step is to document and distribute the organizational structure and arrange for a meeting of team captains. The site will be York Redoubt on June 28-29th. We will need three tri-banders. John noted that the ARRL site is very informative and that on that weekend a DX-expedition will be operating on Sable Island.

Tech Question A problem experienced with the intermittent relay on 20 meters, Dick, VE1AI, advised that Fred, VE1FA, put in a new filter that resolved the problem

John, who has recently returned to Nova Scotia, addressed members regarding his interest in the Radio Amateurs of Canada (RAC) organization. John is Vice President of Public Relations for RAC. He advocates that all members should support RAC, for it is the body that represents us nationwide to our federally governing body and internationally. He advised that he will be taking greater interest in

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this area now that he has retired and is able to do so.

HARC/CRC: Herb Doane, VE1HTD, reported that members are no closer to clarifying the amateur radio communication volunteer position within CRC than previously. Whereas a MOU is wanted to be placed into effect, much along the lines of that drawn up (but not ratified) between SARA and CRC. Such a move was not recommended by one manager and members await the outcome. In the meantime, some excess equipment that was SARA's and now belongs to HARC was removed to the Bloomfield Center. The radio room is quite operational; members do a number of things for CRC, including care of their commercial radios. The lack of operational TMR batteries was a problem, but a number of new batteries have been obtained so that's done.

Other: Gary Bartlett, VE1RGB, advised that the information from Scott, VE1QD, regarding special prefixes for the summer's 75th event has been placed on the anniversary web site thanks to Rob, VE1KS. Gary has created two competitions for July/August, one open to all HARC members with an objective to work as many states, provinces, countries as possible accumulating 2 points for CW, and 1 for SSB. The second is similar to a DXCC, with an objective to work 75 countries during the time-frame. For those reaching that target, a certificate will be presented, but for whoever works the greatest number of countries there will be a suitable prize. To make it easy for all, contest criteria excludes formal contesting for those who usually complete.

Old business: None

New Business:

Radio Amateurs of Canada – John Bartlett, VE1OZ advised members that he accepted a RAC position as VP Public Relations accepted before leaving Columbia. He understands that significant change is needed within RAC. John wants to signal to

HARC members that his involvement is driven due to a concern for RAC's membership diminishing, and the need for a strong organization to support the spectrum that amateurs hold and help address what can be accomplished. This is a newly defined position, and Public Relations is strategic. He will be attending a meeting in Cornwall on May 3-4th and will be happy to hear from members so he can represent our concerns. He will be making recommendations for a 5 year plan to overhaul the RAC organization, which will be unveiled at the Board meeting. John expects this to be a tough, long and hard process. Dick, VE1AI spoke to the issue that amateurs who had been ARRL Life Members lost that designation when RAC was born – those individuals did not join the new RAC organization. There is, in fact, talk of creating a new organization. John advised that he will be representing HARC in May. He complimented the club noting that for 9 of the 10 years spent in Columbia he watched for each month's publication of *The Reflector*.

RAC & the 75th: Scott, VE1QD added to John's remarks about RAC, advising that he, himself is now an Assistant Director of RAC to the Halifax area. He reminded members that Dave Sumner and Dave Goodman will be attending the 75th celebrations and remarked it would be great to say that a high percentage of this club hold RAC membership.

Club Stations: Scott, VE1QD, advised Dick, VE1AI that the club station is now working exceptionally well. This evening he worked 25 countries with ease from the Ukraine to Spain, at 200 watts with no linear.

Reports or announcements of general interest. None.

50/50 Draw : Brian, VE1AZV, won the 50/50 draw of \$27

Door Prize: Sam, VE1YVN, won the door prize.

There being no further business, Scott, VE1QD, motioned that the meeting be adjourned.

Meeting adjourned at 20:50 hours. A social evening followed.

Respectfully submitted,
Helen MacRae, VE1HMR, Secretary

NASA has just released a new 4D ionosphere tool that can benefit the ham radio community. To explore the ionosphere and for more information on this outstanding modeling system, please go to the following web sites:

The vodcast on the 4D ionosphere www.nasa.gov.

http://www.nasa.gov/topics/solarsystem/features/4dions_feature.html

A downloadable version that includes a sound bite on how ham radio operators will benefit from this model:

<http://svs.gsfc.nasa.gov/vis/a010000/a010200/a010208/>

Enjoy! Wayne, VE1WPH

From the ARRL Letter, Vol. 27, No. 17 Japan's Ministry of Internal Affairs and Communications (MIC) announced that Japan's Table of Frequency Allocations and the Japanese Amateur Bandplan <http://www.jarl.or.jp/English/6_Band_Plan/JABandplan.pdf> have been amended, giving amateurs in that country more privileges on certain frequency blocks in the 75/80 meter band. Japanese amateurs are now allowed to operate the following additional frequencies on the 75/80 meters: 3.599-3.612 MHz, 3.680 to 3.687 MHz, 3.702-3.716 MHz, 3.745-3.747 MHz and 3.754-3.770 MHz. As of April 28, 2008, Japanese amateurs will have privileges on the following frequencies in the 75/80 meter band: 3.500-3.520 MHz (CW only), 3.520-3.525 MHz (Digital Mode and CW), 3.525-3.575 MHz (CW and Phone), 3.599-3.612 MHz (CW and Phone), 3.680-3.687 MHz (CW and Phone), 3.702-3.716 MHz (CW and Phone), 3.745-3.770 MHz (CW and Phone) and 3.791-3.805 MHz (CW and Phone). - Info provided by JARL <<http://www.jarl.or.jp/English/>>

MS SUPER CITIES WALK

Club members once again took on the challenges of providing communications and support to the local MS Society and the annual MS Super Cities Walk Sunday 04 May 2008. The team met at the Dal Arena mid morning to help set up for the walk. Members were then deployed to their various assignments, assisting in setting up rest stops for some 500 walkers this year. Personal communications equipment set up was completed at rest stops and in MS service and first aid vehicles.

This year's club participation was excellent. With 9 hams filling 7 required positions, we were able to double up on two positions thus provide exposure to new operators. Taking part this year were VE1SJP Sheldon, VE1PIE Colleen, assisting at and around the arena, VE1LDL Doug and VE1WPH Wayne in the MS Support Vehicles, VE1PHK in the First Aid vehicle, VE1EDA Dave, VE1DDC Dave and VE1GTC Tom at the two rest stops, and myself coordinating from the arena.



Wayne, VE1WPH, & Terry, VE1TRB, at the Dal Arena. *Note safety vests – an asset -ed.*



Pat, VE1PHK, by the Dal Arena waiting for his assignment



Sheldon, VE1SJP, & Colleen, VE1PIE, at their "station" along the route



Tom, VE1GTC, enjoying some sunshine outside the Dal Arena. Note his hand held's antenna sticking up out of a very convenient vest pocket

Doug, VE1LDL, took and sent me these pictures. Thanks Doug -ed.

I would like to thank everyone who gave up their Sunday this year and assisted in making this event another amateur radio communications success. You all made the club shine. Thank You.

VE1TRB, Terry



Driving etiquette – The car horn is an auxiliary instrument for judicious use in limited circumstances. Turn signals, however, are not optional.

Visit the NSARA web site at...
<http://users.eastlink.ca/~bdeathe/NSARA/>

Competition #2 - 75 DURING THE 75th

Work 75 countries using the special prefixes during the period in which the HARC 75th Anniversary *Special* Prefixes are in vogue and you will get a reward in the form of a nice certificate. If you are the competitive type, then the person who works the **most** countries (DXCC entities) during the same period will win a really nice big prize.

Rules are simple – Just get stations from the DXCC countries into your log: any band, any modes, any power setting; but you can't count countries worked during any major contest (e. g., IOTA) during the contest period *if you are a formal competitor*. If you're not officially in the contest, then you may operate your heart out and you will be presented the opportunity to legally cheat – working, say, 100 countries during any international contest like IOTA should be a lead-pipe cinch and you can count 'em all.

Special Prefixes for all paid-up licensed HARC Club members are:

VX1 for VE1

VG1 for VA1

The **operating period** is based on the validity dates of the special prefixes as authorized by RAC and Transport Canada, namely from 0001Z, 25 July 2008 to 2359Z, 24 August 2008. There are no restrictions on operating hours.

Keep a **log** of Call Sign//Date//Band//DXCC Country to accompany your submission to ve1rgb@rac.ca before the end of September 2008. In the event of a tie, Zones will start to become important.

Note 1: You do not need to be a member of the Maritime Contest Club (MCC) to enter this contest, but we would like you to join anyway. If you are not already a member of MCC, contact ve1rgb@rac.ca, and he will sign you up (no cost). The MCC Yahoo site periodically provides local contest-related information and it could also be used to regularly publish running totals during this Special Prefix contest period for the various competitors if there is sufficient interest and the data are provided to the MCC Yahoo site moderator.

Note 2: A generic QSL card will be made available gratis by HARC for anyone using the special prefixes in this award or in the other HARC contest.

The cost of living hasn't affected its popularity.

Hello everyone, Interesting article about the Phraselator - looks (sounds!) like the foreunner to the Universal Translator of Star Trek fame.
Cheers, Al, VO1NO

Talk To The Machine

February 22, 2008: One of the unsung electronic heroes of the war on terror is the Phraselator. This is a (large) PDA size device that emits perfectly pronounced words and phrases when the user picks them from a list on the PDA screen, or speaks the English version into a microphone.

Phraselator has been around for a decade, and has been a lifesaver in Afghanistan and Iraq. The first models stored data on 64 megabyte Compact Flash memory cards. With those early versions, you plugged in the right memory card and you are ready to communicate in one of over 50 languages. Each memory card contained 500-1,000 phrases.

Since then, memory card capacity grew to hold a thousand times as much data, enabling all the languages to be stored in each \$2,500 Phraselator. Weighing about a pound, the Phraselator is heavy, but the battery will last over a week without a recharge. The voice recognition is pretty good if you speak clearly, and does not require any preparation by the user (like reciting a bunch of phrases so the computer can "recognize" your voice.) The phrases in the Phraselator mostly ask questions, which can be answered by yes/no, pointing somewhere, or doing something specific (as in, "put your hands up.") Civil Affairs troops like it, because they deal with people in a relaxed atmosphere where an American with yet another gadget will not produce more anxiety. Medical personnel also find Phraselator very useful.

There are special vocabulary sets in the Phraselator, like Force Protection (FP) and Medic, which make available appropriate terms in many languages like Korean, Dari (Eastern Farsi), Pashtu, Arabic (Gulf) and Urdu. There's a Maritime Intercept Operations (MIO) mode, which was developed for use in boarding operations in the Arabian Gulf. There are over 400 phrases in Arabic, Farsi, Urdu, and Hindi. There's a Debriefing Aid mode that has some 5,000 intelligence debriefing phrases and words rendered in Persian-Farsi, Singhalese, Haitian-Creole, Russian, Serbo-Croatian, Cambodian, Spanish, French, Korean, and Arabic (Egyptian). There are several different medical modes. The one watt speaker on the Phraselator can be easily heard, and the unit can be plugged into a public address system as well.

The first Phraselator appeared in 1998, but the true "Phraselator" didn't appear until early 2002, when they were first used in Afghanistan. The Department of Defense has bought nearly ten thousand so far, and the troops agree that it sure beats sign language or thumbing through a phrase book. The locals like it because it's yet another neat American gadget, and one that won't kill them as well. The next generation of Phraselator will enable true two-way communication. This technology is already available, but needs a laptop computer, with a big hard drive and a fast CPU. This kind of hardware will be available in PDAs in the next few years, which will make the two way Phraselator possible. Currently, about 7,000 military Phraselators are in use, mainly in Iraq and Afghanistan.